REPORTS

OF THE

SELECTMEN OF FAIRHAVEN,

ON THE

FINANCIAL AFFAIRS OF THE TOWN,

AND OF THE

SCHOOL COMMITTEE,

FOR THE YEAR ENDING

MARCH 31st, 1858.

NEW-BEDFORD:
STANDARD PRESS — E. ANTHONY, PRINTER.
1858.

REPORT

OF THE

SELECTMEN OF FAIRHAVEN,

ON THE

FINANCIAL AFFAIRS OF THE TOWN,

For the Year ending March 31st, 1858.

NEW-BEDFORD:
STANDARD PRESS — E. ANTHONY, PRINTER.
1858.

REPORT OF THE SELECTMEN.

The Selectmen have examined the accounts of Ebenezer Akin, Jr., Collector of Taxes, to the year 1855, and Tucker Damon, Jr., to 1858, and find them correct.

Amount of Tax Bills in the hands of Ebenezer Akin, Jr., at the commencement of the past year, as per Selectmen's Report, 1857,		$872.81
Amount of Tax Bills in the hands of Tucker Damon, Jr., for the years 1856–7,	$2,916.81	
Amount of Tax Bills placed in the hands of Tucker Damon, Jr., for the years 1857–8,	29,553.51	
		32,470.32
		$33,343.13

Their accounts show as follows:

Amount collected by E. Akin, Jr., and paid to Town Treasurer,		369.74	
Commissions to E. Akin, Jr.,		7.55	
Uncollected Taxes in the hands of E. Akin, Jr., March, 30, 1858,		495.52	
			872.81
Amount collected by Tucker Damon, Jr., and paid to State Treasurer,		4,752.00	
" " County Treasurer,		4,136.87	
" " Town Treasurer,		17,138.14	
Collector's commissions, T. Damon, Jr.,		531.16	
Abatements for prompt pay,		1,356.24	
Taxes remitted by Assessors,		433.58	
Uncollected Taxes 1855–6,	137.69		
Uncollected Taxes 1856–7,	791.60		
Uncollected Taxes 1857–8, in the hands of T. Damon, Jr.,	3,193.04		
		4,122.33	
			32.470.32
			$33,343.13

The accounts of Tucker Damon, Jr., Treasurer of the Town, have been examined and are correct, as follows:

The Town is credited with:

Balance in the Treasury, April 1st, 1857,	$271.40
Dividends from Bank Stock,	175.00
Loan of Fairhaven Institution for Savings,	2,600.00
Loan of Merchants Bank,	1,800.00
Cash of State Treasurer, School Fund,	220.05
Cash of Town of Yarmouth,	21.00
Cash of Town of Nantucket,	9.43
Cash of W. D. Swan,	5.00
Cash of B. Austin,	8.70
Cash of Fairhaven Branch Railroad for hose,	18.10
Cash of G. Atwood,	2.25
Cash of N. S. Spooner,	14.11
Cash of E. Akin, Jr., Collector,	369.74
Cash of W. A. Spooner, Superintendent,	144.82
Cash of T. Nye,	6.88
Cash from sale of Town Maps,	8.11
Cash of T. Damon, Jr., Collector,	17,138.14
	$22,812.73

And indebted with:

Orders drawn on the Treasurer and paid,	19,936.59
Loan of Fairhaven Institution for Savings, paid,	500.00
Interest on Loans,	1,026.25
Treasurer's commissions,	213.57
Cash balance in Treasurer's hands,	1,136.32
	$22,812.73

There remains unpaid of the expenses of the Town on the 30th of March:

Amount due Schools,	978.19
Outstanding orders for Support of Poor,	1,022.24
Outstanding orders for Incidental Expenses,	659.27
For School Books,	453.41
For Interest due,	300.00
	$3,413.11

To pay the aforesaid:

Uncollected Taxes,	$4,617.85
School Books sold,	565.81
School Books in hands of the Committee,	453.41
Due from F. Keith, on his note,	94.31
Due from J. P. Morse,	125.95
Due from Town of Rochester,	35.00
Due from Town of Berkley,	7.00
Due from Town of Sandwich,	25.08
Due from Town of Chilmark,	9.81
Due from City of Fall River,	27.54
Cash in Treasurer's hands,	1,136.31
	$7,098.08

TOWN DEBT.

Loan of Fairhaven Institution for Savings,	12,100.00
Loan of New-Bedford Institution for Savings,	5,000.00
Loan of Merchants' Bank,	1,800.00
Loan of individuals,	4,000.00
	$22,900.00

The Town has:

28 Shares Fairhaven Bank Stock, par value,	2,800.00
Liquor Agency, stock and cash on hand,	470.10
	$3,270.10

PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

Balance of Appropriation for 1856–7,		754.44
Appropriation for 1857–8,		7,500.00
Received of State Treasurer,		220.05
		$8,474.49
Orders drawn for High School,	923.05	
Orders drawn for Common Schools,	6,573.25	
		7,496.30
Balance not drawn:		
High School,	761.95	
Common Schools,	216.24	
		987.19
		$8,474.49

REPAIRS OF HIGHWAYS.

Appropriation for 1857–8,	2,000.00
Amount overdrawn to Dr. Incidental account,	42,66
	$2,042.66
Orders drawn and paid,	$2,024.66

FARM, ALMS HOUSE AND POOR.

Appropriation for 1857–8,		2,500.00
Cash received from Town of Yarmouth,		21.00
Cash received from Town of Nantucket,		9.43
Cash received from Beriah Austin,		8.70
Cash received from G. Atwood,		2.25
Cash received from T. Nye,		6.88
Cash received from W. A. Spooner, labor from farm,		85 19
Cash received from W. A. Spooner,		59.63
Overdrawn 1855–6,	90.57	
Overdrawn 1856–7,	1,113.63	
Overdrawn 1857–8,	971.63	
		2,175.83
		$4,868.91

Orders drawn:

For Support of Poor in and out of Alms House, 1856–7,	346,69	
For Support of Poor in and out of Alms House, 1857–8,	2,303.65	
		2,650.34
For purchase of Stock,		241.00
For bills of repairs on house,		20.75
For J. B. Bisbee's bill,		12.04
For Isaac Terry, blacksmithing,		24.64
For R. M. Simmons, repairing,		5.25
For bills of fuel,		125.51
For C. Maxfield, furniture,		6.00
For hired labor for House and Farm,		185 41
For Physicians' bills,		93.75
For Wm. A. Spooner, keeper of Alms House,		300.00
		$3,664.69
For amount overdrawn to 1857,		1,204.22
		4,868.91
Due from F. Keith, on his note,		94.21
Due from J. B. Morse,		125.95
Due from Town of Rochester,		35.00
Due from Town of Berkley,		7.00
Due from Town of Sandwich,		25.08
Due from Town of Chilmark,		9 81
Due from City of Fall River,		27 54
		$324.69

INCIDENTAL ACCOUNT.

Balance of Appropriation 1856–7,	3,059.88
Appropriation for 1857–8,	5,500.00
Special Appropriation for Engine,	2,000.00
Dividends from Bank Stock,	175.00
Loans from Fairhaven Institution for Savings,	2,600.00
Loan from Merchants Bank,	1,800.00
Cash from W. D. Swan,	5.00
Cash from N. S. Spooner,	14.11
Cash from Fairhaven Branch Railroad,	18.10
Cash from E. Akin, Jr.,	369.74
Sale of Town Maps,	8.11
Overlay on Taxes,	756.88
Taxes assessed in November,	7.50
Amount assessed for School Books,	400.26
	$16,714.58

Orders drawn:

For Fire Engine,	1,700.00	
For Hose Cart,	150.00	
For Hose,	752.21	
For oiling Hose,	12.75	
For freight of Engine,	9.00	
For painting, repairs, fixtures, &c., for Engine Houses,	430.90	
For Flag Staff,	61.39	
For bills, repairs of Engines and Hose, coal, &c.,	174.21	
For Reservoirs and Pump,	23.94	
For Engine Men,	312.00	
		3,626.40
For High School House,		226.65
For School Books,		750.80
For Printing, Stationery,		157.50
For sundry bills for labor,		84.25
For Street Signs,		17.38
For "Fishery" expenses,		200.00
For "Quaker Lane" Road,	350.00	
For Wall, Long Plain Road,	6.00	
For Wall, Head River Road,	40.00	
For Bridge, Head of the River,	30.00	
For repairs of Streets and Drains in Village,	82.17	
		508.17
For Land damages,		29.97
		$5,601.12

Amount brought forward,		$5,601.12
For Assessors,	320.50	
For School Committee,	277.25	
For Overseers of the Poor,	100.00	
For Selectmen,	350.00	
For Constables, Street Committee and Police,	132.60	
For Auditors,	6.00	
		1,186.35
For M. Howard, Registry of Children,		18.00
For Town Clerk, Registry of Births, Marriages and Deaths,		41.60
For rent of Rooms for Town,		56.25
For Interest on Loans,		1,026,25
For Loan of Fairhaven Institution for Savings, paid,		500.00
For sundry bills,		74.74
For Taxes remitted by Assessors,		433.58
For Abatements for prompt payment of Taxes,		1,356.24
For Treasurer and Collector's commissions,		752.28
For balance overdrawn for Highways,		42.66
Balance unexpended,		5,625.51
		$16,714.58

JOHN A. HAWES,
E. G. MORTON,
M. L. ELDRIDGE, } *Selectmen.*

We, the undersigned, have examined the foregoing accounts, and believe them to be correct.

JOB C. TRIPP,
FREDERIC TABER,
WILLIAM BROWNELL, } *Committee on Accounts.*

REPORT

OF THE

SCHOOL COMMITTEE,

OF THE

TOWN OF FAIRHAVEN,

FOR THE YEAR 1857-8.

NEW-BEDFORD:
STANDARD PRESS — E. ANTHONY, PRINTER.
1858.

REPORT OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

GENTLEMEN:

THE Annual Report of your School Committee is hereby respectfully submitted. The state of the various Schools during the year will first claim your attention:

HIGH SCHOOL.

At the opening of the first term no change in the corps of Teachers from that of the previous year was deemed expedient. Accordingly the discipline and instruction of the School was committed to the following persons. Mr. GEORGE E. THACHER, Principal, and Misses KING, DEXTER and LISCOMB, Assistants. During the latter part of the term, however, upon the resignation of Miss King, her place was supplied by Miss Mary E. Greene.

At the close of the first term, after mature deliberation, your Committee fully approved and adopted a plan of reorganization, whereby the different grades of advancement in the School should be comprised in four instead of eight classes as previously. By this change in classification many important advantages were secured in the management of the School, and also a diminution in the requisite number of Teachers. At this time also, the Principal was induced to accept an appointment to a Professorship of Chemistry in a Collegiate Institution of one of the Southern States.

The second term commenced with the following instructors: Mr. Chas. P. Rugg, Principal, Miss Phebe W. Cook and Miss Caroline Dexter, Assistants.

The course of study for the year was arranged by your Committee in concurrence with the Teachers, with a view to securing as far as possible the great end of study, the furnishment of the mind and the best exercise of all its powers. And as we recognize this twofold object to be gained by study, we cannot but deprecate the attempt, which is sometimes made to reduce the standard of school instruction to the low level of such branches as are either suited to the taste of the scholar or immediately applicable to the business affairs of every day life. It often happens that the exercise, which a given mind most needs, to secure a proportion and balance among its faculties, can be found only in the pursuit of studies which are least attractive and even repugnant to the taste. The fact that a scholar is averse to mathematical studies affords in itself no proof that a thorough course of instruction in mathematical science is not most indispensable for symmetry in his mental development.

Your Committee have not thought it prudent as yet to elevate the standard of admission to the High School, but have chosen rather to give their efforts to securing on the part of candidates something like reasonable approximation to the present moderate standard. To this end they have adopted a plan of examination which seems eminently fitted to insure thoroughness and impartiality and at the same time to relieve the embarrassment of diffidence to which many are always liable. In a word, to throw every applicant entirely upon his own resources and prevent even the possibility of accidental admissions.

The number of admissions during the year has been small. At the examination in April, twenty presented themselves for admission. After careful deliberation your Committee decided that none of this number gave evidence of possessing both the qualifications of age and scholarship requisite for entering with profit upon the course of study prescribed for the High School. At the examination in November, twenty-two candidates for admission were present. Of these only seven were approved. There has been only one public graduation during the year. On this occasion the customary testimonial of approbation on the part of the Principal and the Committee was conferred upon six pupils, who had completed the prescribed course of study with commendable fidelity. Their names are as follows: A. Hayden Lambert, Charles H. Morton, Almira V. Bracy, Mary D. Chace, Emilia A. Liscomb, Lucy A. Reynard. A number of past-graduates upon application have been permitted, during the year, under certain restrictions, to return and enjoy still further the privileges of the School.

Respecting the advancement of the School during the year, your Committee are disposed to speak favorably. Notwithstanding the unusually frequent changes that have occurred among the teachers, happy indications of progress have been apparent. The former Principal suddenly left us in the very brightest day of his entire connection with the school. The last few weeks of his instruction among us afforded unprecedented satisfaction to his own mind as well as to the minds of the Committee, both in respect to the improved deportment and the scholarship of his pupils. Nor have the literary advantages of the school or the opportunities which it affords for thorough instruction

suffered the least abatement under its new administration. It is the opinion of your Committee that the school never afforded greater facilities for acquiring useful knowledge and mental discipline than at present. The government of the school appears to exhibit many prime features of excellence, not the least of which is universal kindness, tempered by available severity. Privilege ever prominent, yet secure against abuse by a stern background of law. These are essential characteristics of all good government.

	Scholars.	Av. att.	Length of Schools.	Wages of Teachers.
Summer,	82	76.26	5 months,	$164.
Winter,	78	74.10	5 "	150.

DISTRICT No. 1.

The past year has been a favored one with this school, in point of instruction. The winter term especially has given great satisfaction to your Committee. The cheerful aspect of the school, the general studiousness, the excellent order, the remarkable thoroughness and precision with which instruction was imparted even to minute differences in pronunciation, the timely hints thrown out by way of inculcating good manners, and withal the manifest indications that, from the youth verging toward manhood, down to the baby-boy who was perched upon a bench to say his little lesson, not one of all the school was neglected. These considerations led your Committee to conclude that few if any schools among us during the winter have done so important a work for their districts.

The teacher for the summer term was Miss E. E. Wilson. Winter, Mr. Geo. W. Francis.

	Scholars.	Av. att.	Length of Schools.	Wages of Teachers.
Summer,	24	18.1	4.5 month,	$90.
Winter,	33	25.87	3.75 "	146.25

DISTRICT No. 2.

The summer term of this school was well conducted by Miss Lucy A. Manter. The winter term was entrusted to the care and instruction of Mr. George T. Russell, Jr. Your Committee had no reason to doubt his ability as a scholar, or his faithfulness to the duties of a teacher, but questioned the wisdom of committing so large and so difficult a school to one so young and wholly without the experience of a teacher.

	Scholars.	Av. att.	Length of Schools.	Wages of Teachers.
Summer,	32	22	6 months,	$120.
Winter,	41		4 "	112.

DISTRICT No. 3.

The school in this District is the smallest in the town. If the circumstances which have caused so great a reduction of the number of scholars in this school were of a permanent character, economy would doubtless demand an apportionment of it to other neighboring districts. But it is evident, that with the revival of manufacturing operations in this neighborhood and the natural influx of population, this school would become as large as the average of our country schools. We think, therefore, that the district should be retained.

This school has been taught the past year by Miss P. C. Wilson, under whose instruction the school has made very pleasing progress.

	Scholars.	Av. att.	Length of Schools.	Wages of Teachers.
Summer,	11	9.6	5 months,	$100.
Winter,	14	9.5	3.25 "	65.

DISTRICT No. 4.

This school has been acceptably conducted during the past year. At the several visits of the Committee

the exercises have been, for the greater part, very satisfactory. The summer term was taught by Miss Cornelia Rounseville. The winter by Mr. Jones Robinson.

	Scholars.	Av. att.	Length of Schools.	Wages of Teacher.
Summer,	29	24	5 months,	$110.
Winter,	39	34.68	3.5 "	140.

DISTRICT No. 5.

Miss Sarah W. Macomber had charge of this school during the summer term. A pleasing interest in the various studies of the school, and a healthy mental activity on the part of the scholars, was always apparent under her instruction. The winter term was conducted by Mr. Walter A. Davis, a member of your Committee.

	Scholars.	Av. att.	Length of Schools.	Wages of Teacher.
Summer,	33	22.5	5 months,	$100.
Winter,	29	20.	4 "	139.50

DISTRICT No. 6.

No very prominent impression either of excellence or of demerit in the management and instruction of this school, was made upon the minds of the Committee in their visits during the summer term, which was taught by Miss Lydia A. Morse. The winter term was commenced by Mr. Martin L. Eldridge, a member of your Committee, whose necessary resignation before its close involved the disadvantage of a change of teachers at a time most unfavorable to the interests of a school. The term was closed by Mr. Fish.

	Scholars.	Av. att.	Length of Schools.	Wages of Teacher.
Summer,	35	22.19	4.5 month,	$90.
Winter,	44	32.71	4.25 "	150.

DISTRICT No. 7.

This school was subject to the same disadvantage as that of No. 6, namely, too many teachers, yet if we mistake not, has enjoyed good instruction and good discipline. The average attendance in this school, as in some others, has not been as great as could be desired. It is plain to see, that the habitual absence of a *few* scholars will so affect the general average as to place in a false light those parents and scholars who fully appreciate the value of our public schools, (as is the case with a great majority in this district,) and thus affix a demerit to a particular school which it ill deserves. We hope that *all* parents will endeavor to remedy the evil of which we here complain. The summer term was commenced by Miss Fannie E. Marsh, and closed by Miss Charlotte E. Mendell. The winter term was taught by Mr. P. S. Doty.

	Scholars.	Av. att.	Length of Schools.	Wages of Teacher.
Summer,	28	22.5	4.75 months,	$104
Winter,	37	29.5	4.13 "	148.50

DISTRICT No. 8.

Both terms of this school have been under good instruction. The first was taught by Miss Elizabeth G. Kempton, whose lack of previous experience was abundantly supplied by an unusual degree of tact in teaching, especially *young* children. The second term was conducted by Mr. Jabez Wood, and your Committee have been gratified to learn the interest that has been taken in moulding the manners and morals, as well as in developing the mental powers of those under his charge.

	Scholars.	Av. att.	Length of Schools.	Wages of Teachers.
Summer,	34	24.91	5 months,	$90.
Winter,	42	27.35	4 "	140.

DISTRICT No. 9.

Your Committee can speak favorably of the instruction which this school has enjoyed during the year. The summer term was committed to Miss Eliza J. Purrington. The winter term to Mr. Augustine W. Bisbee. His ready powers of analysis and happy facility in imparting knowledge, together with the interest with which he seemed to invest every study to the mind of the pupil, cannot fail to have made their mark upon the school. More effort, however, to maintain a salutary restraint upon his pupils would have secured still happier results.

	Scholars.	Av. att,	Length of Schools.	Wages of Teachers.
Summer,	24	15.81	6 months,	$96
Winter,	26	15.	4 "	120

DISTRICT No. 10.

Neither term of this school has given even approximate satisfaction to the Committee. It has seemed too manifest that the reins of government and the goads to application were poorly handled. There has been a lack of efficient control over the school, and also of genuine enthusiasm in the business of instruction. It is but just, however, too add in this connection, that there is only one other school in the town, in which so large a number of scholars have been committed to the tuition of a single teacher.

The teacher for the summer term was Miss Mary A. Tinkham. For the winter term, Mr. Jediah Shaw.

	Scholars.	Av. att.	Length of Schools	Wages of Teachers.
Summer,	50	37.5	5 months,	$90.
Winter,	56	42.86	3.85 "	142.55

DISTRICT No. 11.

The *Grammar School* of the district has been during the entire year under the care of Miss Lois Dean. A

hard work and a good one has been done in this school. Your Committee have been highly gratified to witness the remarkable promptness and enthusiasm of the pupils under examination, and their uncommon proficiency in the various branches of study which they have pursued. Happy progress on the part of every pupil is unquestionable.

	Scholars.	Av. att.	Length of Schools.	Wages of Teachers.
Summer,	31	20	5 months,	$100.
Winter,	26	22	3.5 "	70.

The *Primary and Intermedial School* of this District has made good improvement during the year. The first term, and part of the second was taught by Miss K. H. Brady. The second term was closed by Miss Sarah W. Macomber.

	Scholars	Av. att.	Length of Schools.	Wages of Teachers.
Summer,	32	24.5	5 months.	$90.
Winter,	27	22.6	3.5 "	63.

DISTRICT No. 12 and 13.

The Grammar School.—During the year there has been no change of teachers in this school, which has been conducted by Mr. Aaron Porter, Principal, and Miss Sarah E. Millett, Assistant. Much profit to the scholars has attended the indefatigable efforts of the principal, and much could be said in commendation of marked features of excellence, both in the government and instruction of the school. But the conviction could not escape your Committee that weighty interests were often embarrassed by *excessive* attention on the part of the principal to the merest punctilios of school management. There has been improvement in the attendance of the scholars during the year.

	Scholars.	Av. att.	Length of Schools.	Wages of Teachers.
Summer,	80	60.79	5 months,	$435.
Winter,	96	81.9	3.75 "	326.25

The Centre Medium.—This is the largest school in Town under the direction of a single teacher. The recitations of the scholars in this department have always given indications to the Committee of commendable industry on the part of scholars, and faithfulness on the part of their teacher, Mrs. M. A. Fairfield.

There is one style of architecture appropriate to a penitentiary, and another to to a school house. Your Committee upon entering the room occupied by the Centre Medium School, have often felt that these different orders were there sadly reversed.

	Scholars.	Av. att.	Length of Schools.	Wages of Teachers.
Summer,	56	45	5 months,	$110.
Winter,	51	46	3.5 "	77.

The Centre Primary.—This large school of little ones is still under the management of Miss Adeline L. Grinnell, assisted by Miss Jane Grinnell. We can heartily commend this school in nearly every important particular pertaining to the instruction and deportment of those who comprise it. It is doing well the work of a Primary School.

	Scholars.	Av. att.	Length of Schools.	Wages of Teachers.
Summer,	101	79	5 months,	$170.
Winter,	82	62	3.5 "	136.

The North Primary and Intermedial.—This school, under the direction of Miss H. N. Hathaway, has been during the year in a highly prosperous condition. The classes have always, upon examination, showed the good results of a happy method of instruction. Owing to the size of the school the past year, Miss Kate Hitch has been associated with Miss Hathaway as assistant.

	Scholars.	Av. att.	Length of Schools.	Wages of Teachers.
Summer,	76	58.5	5 months,	$160.
Winter,	54	40.	3.5 "	112.

The South Medium.—Widely different impressions have been made upon the minds of your Committee at different visits to this school. At times it has appeared a *model* of studiousness and orderly conduct. Progress has been apparent during the year, though there are many in the school who are behind their years in point of scholarship. The school has been taught the past year by Miss Susan Hitch.

	Scholars.	Av. att.	Length of Schools.	Wages of Teachers.
Summer,	38	30	5 months,	$90.
Winter,	41	31	3.5 "	73.

The South Primary.—Miss Amanda Clark has conducted this school the past year, and a good work has been accomplished in her department. We like that persistency in a teacher that *will have* the lesson out of the idle or sullen boy, even though it detain both him and her beyond the prescribed hours of school.

	Scholars.	Av. att.	Length of Schools.	Wages of Teachers.
Summer,	43	34.42	5 months,	$90.
Winter,	36	24.26	3.5 "	63.

DISTRICT No. 14.

The school in this district has been under excellent instruction during the year. At the close of the Summer term, Miss Eliza Moore resigned her situation to enter upon another engagement. The Winter term has been conducted by Miss Anna Webb, whose long experience in teaching and facility in communicating, not only knowledge from the class-book, but also collateral information from the resources of her own mind, have well served the educational interests of this district. The worst feature in the management of this school, and one for which parents are mainly respon-

sible, is the great irregularity in the attendance of the pupils.

	Scholars.	Av. att.	Length of Schools.	Wages of Teachers.
Summer,	27	17.52	4 months,	$72.
Winter,	40	25.8	5.25 "	131.25

DISTRICT No. 15.

The Summer term was taught by Miss Sarah C. Aikin. The Winter term was taught by Mr. Samuel Tyler Read, a faithful and able teacher. His faithfulness seemed to extend to every part of a teacher's duty. The behavior of his scholars, as well as their mental culture, was an object of his careful supervision. An interesting method of teaching, together with good attendance on the part of the scholars has produced valuable results. The condition of the school, at present, compares most favorably with that of one year since.

An alteration in the seats of the school house, in this district, would contribute greatly to the comfort, as well as the health of the scholars.

	Scholars.	Av. att.	Length of Schools.	Wages of Teachers.
Summer,	21	15.5	4.25 months,	$72.25
Winter,	37	29.30	4.08 "	162.65

DISTRICT No. 16.

The attendance during the Summer term of this school, which was taught by Miss Abbie P. Le Baron, was small and irregular, and the improvement of the school was unsatisfactory to the Committee.

The Winter term was under the direction of Mr. Henry C. Welch. It was his misfortune to begin his experience as a teacher in a school where the parents could not agree in their preferences for a teacher. But we are pleased to state, that, notwithstanding this

discouragement, and the spirit of insubordination manifested on the part of some of his pupils, he has conducted the school in a manner which has won the confidence of the Committee. The attendance of scholars during the year has been very faulty.

	Scholars.	Av. att.	Length of Schools.	Wages of Teachers.
Summer,	37	17	5 months,	$80.
Winter,	52	38.26	4.75 "	166.25

DISTRICT No. 17.

There have been only two families the past year on the Island which constitutes this district, and as no school-house has been provided, your Committee have secured board, for such as have desired it, in other districts, where they have enjoyed the benefits of school instruction.

DISTRICT No. 18.

Miss Elizabeth King has taught this school during the year. A neat and comfortable school-room, an able and enthusiastic teacher and a band of pupils that can bear questioning, have always made the visits of your Committee in this district most agreeable.

	Scholars.	Av. att.	Length of Schools.	Wages of Teachers.
Summer,	31	19.6	5 months,	$110.
Winter,	34	24·30	4.9 "	84.

DISTRICT No. 19.

This is one of the larger, and, as commonly reported, one of the most difficult schools in the town. It has been the past year under the superintendence of Mrs. M. Hafford. Although the manner in which this school has been conducted has not been entirely satisfactory to the Committee, they have not failed to discover signs of permanent benefit in those who have

best improved its privileges. Miss Esther Delano has continued, persevering with her little charge, as assistant in this school.

	Scholars.	Av. att.	Length of Schools.	Wages of Teachers.
Summer,	70	53	5 months,	$170.
Winter,	67	51	3.25 "	120.50

Before closing the report, Gentlemen, your Committee would gladly, were it practicable, offer some suggestions which should serve to awaken in the minds of our citizens generally, a higher appreciation of what constitutes true education and educational privileges among us. A building, however neat and commodious, situated in however eligible a locality, furnished with benches however well filled with pupils, and a desk occupied by a *locum tenens*, styled a teacher, does not for that answer to the true idea of a school. Nor yet are the branches that are taught in it, however select they may be, or the method of teaching, however perfect in itself, the thing of highest moment. Beyond all these considerations, important as they truly are, there is one of still greater importance, and that is the *moral tone* of a school. To one unaccustomed to visit in succession various schools of a town or a village, the meaning of this expression will hardly be apprehended. A school, as truly as a family, has a distinctive *social life* of its own. The very mental and moral atmosphere, so to speak, may be pure, or it may be tainted. To live and breathe in it tends to elevate or to contaminate. The longer we are familiar with any school the more apparent does this distinctive feature become. Yet even a passing acquaintance with a variety of schools, will often serve to place them in marked contrast, in this particular. You

enter the door of a school room during the hours of study, and take your seat in full view of a score or two of faces, and soon perhaps the impression becomes irresistible, that you are in a corrupt moral atmosphere. You feel as if "confronted with a bad countenance." External appearances all aside, the floor swept or unswept, the walls clean or disfigured, it is the cast of mind, the thought, the feeling, in a word, the moral character of the school that makes the most vivid impression upon you. In like manner, you enter another school, and in a moment, before you can take your seat, all is changed. What a contrast! The surroundings in point of comeliness and cleanliness may be greatly inferior, but you breathe in a different atmosphere. You *feel* it. Here is moral sensibility. Here is conscience. And you make no hesitation in deciding under which of these influences you would choose that a child should be placed. The sensibilities then, no less than the intellect, are susceptible of education, and especially is this true in the early periods of childhood. It follows, therefore, that a school, whatever may be its prescribed course of study, and whatever the qualifications of its teachers, does but partially serve the purpose of education unless it maintains a *good moral tone.* Rather, we should say, it is defective in the most important point of all. It does but a meagre work of education, if, while it exercises the intellect, it stifles or debases the finer feelings of our nature. The true idea, we may say the original idea of a New England village school, is that of an institution from which every urchin and every lass shall return home each night, *better in morals, mind and manners.*

Great caution, therefore, and discretion should be

exercised in making selection of teachers for our schools. And in order to secure such as shall prove in the highest sense a benefit to the community, several suggestions may be in place.

The plan by which at present each district, through its Prudential Committee, provides its own teacher or teachers, whatever it may have to recommend it, in some respects cannot fail to operate, on the general scale, unfavorably to the cause of education among us. The conviction has continually strengthened in the minds of your Committee that the town, as a *whole*, would enjoy far better instruction if the responsibility of selecting and appointing teachers was lodged with the general Committee.

But another suggestion, which your Committee would make and urge upon your attention, is that of the vital importance of entrusting our educational interests in the hands of none but competent and judicious men. No man is fitted to make choice of a teacher for the public, who has not himself a heart of warmest interest in the welfare of the young, and a mind capable of appreciating the qualities requisite for a public instructor.

Further, your Committee suggest the necessity of providing, at all times, a fair and even generous remuneration, according to their actual accomplishments, for those employed to conduct our schools. Without this we cannot hope to retain for any length of time more than mediocrity of excellence in this most important public interest. To inquire what will secure *a teacher*, rather than what will secure a *good* one, is only suffering ourselves to be outbidden in the pursuit of *first* talent, while we subject our children and youth to the tuition of second or third rate teachers.

The Committee cannot but regard the High School as of prime importance to the general interests of education among all lower grades of schools. While it stands as a standard and stimulus to many scholars who would otherwise content themselves with the lower attainments of the common schools, and while it actually affords to many of our aspiring youth the advantages of an excellent education, such as the fathers and mothers among us of a former generation might well crave, its actual benefit to the community does not end here. Even in the more remote districts which are sometimes said to derive no benefit from this institution, its good influence, if it be rightly cherished and guarded, must be sensibly if not consciously felt. It reveals many a deficiency in the management of the lower schools and ofttimes points directly to the place where a monster-evil, a neglect or an abuse must be corrected. For observe a class of candidates under process of examination for admission to this school. The examination we will suppose to be thorough as every examination should be, for this is the *High School.* The scholars have come up through every grade, of Primary, Intermedial and Grammar School instruction; and now from this look-out we propose to determine how the work in each has been done. Does the vigilance of the Committee detect a general failure upon the principles of English Grammar, they infer a defectiveness in the *Grammar School grade* of instruction. And if such failure be confined to the candidates from a given school, the inference, after a fair examination, is just, that not all is right in that school. If, as your Committee have found in past examinations, candidates are sadly deficient in *Spelling*, they turn their attention at once to the Grammar

School, nor stopping here they proceed a step lower to the Intermedial School, nor resting here they enter the Primary department, each of which is, in its turn, responsible for this evil. The most palpable defect in the education of our youth, the discovery of which was made at the door of our High School, led the Committee to investigate the condition of the schools in respect to this branch of study, and the method of instruction pursued in each, not only such as are represented in the High School, but every school in town.

To conclude, your Committee cannot but express the desire that the High School may yet become in a higher sense than at present a school of superior advantages for obtaining a useful and ornamental education; a school in view of which it should often be said of our youth, who seek for instruction elsewhere, "They go further to fare worse." With difficulty only can this desirable result be wrought out. With ease the school may be reduced to the level of a preparatory department, a stepping stone for its graduates to an ordinary High School.

The amount voted by the town for school purposes the past year, was	$7,500.00
Received from State School Fund,	220.05
Balance from last year's accounts,	123.29
Total,	$7,843.34

The apportionment of funds to the various Districts the past year, was as follows:

District No. 1,	$250.	District No. 11,	$363.
" " 2,	250.	" " 12 and 13,	2075.
" " 3,	175.	" " 14,	233.
" " 4,	250.	" " 15,	250.
" " 5,	250.	" " 16,	265.
" " 6,	250.	" " 17,	60.
" " 7,	250.	" " 18,	200.
" " 8,	250.	" " 19,	300.
" " 9,	233.	High School,	1685.
" " 10,	250.		

The special care of the different Districts was committed to the several members of the Committee, as follows:

To Walter A. Davis, Jr., Nos. 1, 2, 5, 6, 18.
To Martin L. Eldridge, " 3, 4, 7, 8, 9.
To Jonathan Cowen, " 14, 15, 16, 17.
To Job Almy, } " 10, 11, 12 & 13, 19.
To J. Willard, }

All of which your Committee respectfully submit:

JOHN WILLARD,
WALTER A. DAVIS, Jr.,
MARTIN L. ELDRIDGE,
JONATHAN COWEN,
} *School Committee.*

Fairhaven, April 5th, 1858.